

direct the insertion of new pages 39-141, which contain the entire disclosure of WO 94/02602, into the specification.

No new matter has been introduced by any of these amendments.

New Matter Objection

The amendment filed by applicants on June 20, 2001 was objected to for introducing new matter. But the Examiner acknowledges that this objection would be obviated if the disclosure of WO 94/02602 were inserted into the specification properly. Applicants have inserted this disclosure as pages 39-141 into the specification. This objection can therefore be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1

Claims 2, 3, 46 and 47 stand rejected for alleged lack of enablement. The Examiner suggests that amending the claim preamble to recite a "human IgM immunoglobulin" would overcome the rejection. Applicants have made this amendment, and thus, the instant rejection can be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

Claims 2, 3, 46 and 47 are newly rejected for being allegedly indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the term "fully human immunoglobulin variable region" in base claims 46 and 47 is vague because it is not clear whether it means merely that said region does not contain any murine immunoglobulin variable sequences, or that said region is identical in every aspect to a human Ig variable region, including glycosylation patterns.

Applicants have amended the term to "non-chimeric variable region." In addition, amended base claims 46 and 47 also recite "human IgM" in the preamble. Thus, it is now clear that the claims are directed to human IgM whose variable regions do not contain murine sequences.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the amendments set forth above overcome all the outstanding rejections. It is further noted that the Examiner acknowledges that the pending claims are free of the prior art (Office Action, paragraph bridging pp. 5-6). Thus, the application as amended is in condition for allowance, and early, favorable action is

solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jane T. Gunnison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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